

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

L-03 H-02 MC-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ACDA-05 EB-07

DODE-00 /075 W

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P R 141820Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8101

INFO AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T LONDON 00653

SECDEF FOR ISA

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MASS, YE, UK, SA, US

SUBJECT: YAR ARMS PURCHASES IN WEST

REF: STATE 6192

1. EMBOFF COLVEYED POINTS IN REFTTEL TO LUCAS, HEAD OF FCO MIDDLE EAST DEPARTMENT, AND FCO DESK OFFICER FOR THE YEMENS, RADCLIFFE, ON JANUARY 14.

2. LUCAS REPLIED AS FOLLOWS:

A) FCO WELCOMES PROPOSAL TO CONSULT CLOSELY.

B) WHHLE HE WILL HAVE TO STAFF OUT PROPOSAL FOR SHRINE MARKET WITH BRITISH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, HE THOUGHT THE IDEA SOUNDED GOOD IN PRINCIPLE BUT IN PRACTICE IT WOULD DEPEND ON WHAT SAUDIS COME UP WITH.

C) BRITISH WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT YEMENIS NEED, AND IN THIS RESPECT AGAIN EXPRESSED INTEREST

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IN SEEING RECOMMENDATIONS IN FIFER REPORT.

D) BRITISH WOULD STILL LIKE TO SEND A SURVEY TEAM
AT SOME POINT, SINCE THEY CANNOT RELATE YEMENI
NEEDS TO BRITISH AVAILABILITIES UNTIL THEIR
OWN MEN HAVE COVERED THE GROUND WITH THEIR
SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT THE BRITISH DO
HAVE AVAILABLE.

E) IN ANY CASE BRITISH HAVE IMPRESSION THERE WILL BE
NO REAL FURTHER MOVEMENT ON THIS ISSUE BY THE
SAUDIS UNTIL JOINT SAUDI-YEMENI COMMISSION
MEETS IN MARCH.

3. EMBOFF REVIEWED OUR REPORTING FROM SANA AND JIDDA ON
DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING RECENT YEMENI-SOVIET AND YEMENI-
SAUDI ARMS AGREEMENTS. LUCAS DID NOT AT THIS MEETING
VOLUNTEER ANY ADDITIONAL INFO BRITISH MIGHT HAVE ON TERMS
OR AMOUNTS IN AGREEMENTS. WE EXPECT HE MAY HAVE MORE IN-
FO AT OUR NEXT MEETING.

4. EMBOFF NOTED THAT FIFER REPORT IS AN INTERNAL USG RE-
PORT NOT DISTRIBUTED TO SAUDIS OR YEMENIS; HOWEVER, HE
UNDERTOOK TO ASK DEPARTMENT IF A SANITIZED VERSION OF IT
COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE BRITISH. EMBOFF ALSO UN-
DERTOOK TO ASI DEPARTMENT WHEN WE BELIEVE BRITISH SURVEY
MISSION COULD VISIT YEMEN IN LIGHT OF LATEST DEVELOPMENTS.

5. IN ADDITION TO PROSPECTIVE STOPOVER OF AMBASSADOR
SCOTES, IF AMBASSADOR PORTER HAS NOT YET LEFT FOR SAUDI
ARABIA, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF HE ALSO COULD
STOP OFF IN LONDON FOR CONSULTATION WITH FCO.

RICHARDSON

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